REMARKS

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to because descriptive words for claimed elements are missing in all figures as stated in the Office Action. The drawings have been amended in response to the comments of the Examiner to include descriptive words for claimed elements. Amended drawings showing the amendments in red are being provided herewith for the approval of the examiner. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by these amendments. In view of the above remarks and amendments to the drawings, it is respectfully submitted that objection has been satisfied and should be withdrawn.

The abstract was objected to for the reasons stated in the Office Action. The objected to phrase, "Figure 5", was deleted in the Preliminary Amendment filed November 29, 1999. In view of the deletion of the objected to phrase in the above mentioned preliminary amendment it is respectfully submitted that this objection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-14 were objected to on the informalities listed in the Office Action. Claims 1, and 3 - 14 have been formally amended to improve clarity and flow as suggested by the Examiner. Based on the above remarks and formal amendments to claims 1, and 3 - 14, it is respectfully submitted that this objection has been satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Wiedemann et al (US Patent 5,347,293) in view of Kaneko (US Patent 5,388,203) on the grounds set forth in the Office Action.

The present claimed invention recites a device and a method for displaying pictograms in a vehicle. This device includes a control unit and a display unit, in particular a liquid crystal display. The display unit is controlled by the control unit. The display unit is divided into symbol fields (2, 3, 4, 5, 6) which are arranged in a row. The control unit controls display of only one pictogram in each symbol field simultaneously. The display unit displays each new pictogram which is to be displayed in a specific symbol field (2, 3, 4, 5, 6) and displaces, without changing their order, by one symbol field, the pictograms which have already been displayed. The device further includes a control element (13) for controlling a display of a coherent section of the pictograms displayable in the symbol fields of the display unit if the number of pictograms to be displayed simultaneously exceed the number of symbol fields on the display unit.

Contrary to the assertions of the Examiner, the present claimed invention is not merely a device to display pictograms on a liquid crystal display in a vehicle. Rather,the present claimed invention is directed to the way in which the display is changed when a new pictogram is to be displayed. This is accomplished by always displaying pictograms in a specific symbol field which are to be newly displayed in the symbol fields that are arranged in a row. Further, the pictograms which have already been displayed

are displaced by one symbol field without changing the order of the pictograms. The symbol field in which the pictograms are displayed is based upon the chronological order in which the pictorgrams were displayed.

Wiedemann (US 6,347,293) discloses a display device for vehicles in which liquid crystal display is used. The pixels of the liquid crystal display can be activated individually in order to represent graphic symbols and only form a single symbol field 19. Wiedemann, neither discloses nor suggests a display that is divided into a plurality of symbol fields which are arranged one next to the other in a row, as in the present claimed invention. Furthermore, Wiedemann niether discloses nor suggests a control unit that only displays one pictogram at the same time in each symbol field, as in the present claimed invention.

Kaneko (US 6,388,203) discloses a method for a data processing device in which the aim is to prevent symbols which, for example, are to be moved on a screen using a mouse from being placed on top of one another and thus triggering undesired functionssuch asthe deletion of a file, if the pictogram for the file is moved onto the pictogram of the waste basket (column 1, lines 7 to 23). Kaneko neither discloses nor suggests a display that is divided into symbol fields which are arranged one next to the other in a row whereby a control unit only displays one pictogram in each symbol field at the same time, as in the present claimed invention. Kaneko also neither discloses nor suggests that each newly displayed pictogram to be displayed in each of the symbol fields which are arranged one next to the other in a row, is

always displayed in a specific symbol field by the control unit as in the present claimed invention. Furthermore, Kaneko neither discloses nor suggests that the pictograms which have already been displayed are displaced by one symbol field without changing their order as in the present claimed invention.

The citation of Kaneko by the Examiner is not understood as the relationship between Kaneko and the present claimed invention is unclear because the problem solved by Kaneko does not occur in a device for displaying pictograms with symbol fields arranged in a row, as in the present claimed invention. The symbols in the present claimed invention cannot be displaced by a user and any functions which could lead to undesired operations of the present claimed invention are not linked to the symbols or the overlapping of the symbols. Moreover, overlapping of the symbols cannot occur because only one pictogram is displayed in each symbol field.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Wiedemann, when taken alone or in combination with Kaneko would not make the present invention unpatentable. It is further respectfully submitted that the rejection has been satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "Version with markings to show changes".

Since the present claims set forth the present invention patentably and distinctly, and are not taught by the cited art either taken alone or in combination, this amendment is believed to place this case in condition for allowance and the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the matter, enter this amendment, and to allow all of the claims in this case.

Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR SECTION 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that the accompanying Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on December 12, 2002.

Dated: December 12, 2002

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USA Patent Application
Stefan Schradi, et al
Serial No.: 09/390,532
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DEVICE AND METHOD FOR DISPLAYING
PICTOGRAMS IN A VEHICLE
Examiner: Francis Nguyen
Group art unit: 2674

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Twice amended) A device for displaying pictograms in a vehicle, comprising a control unit and a display unit, in particular [an LC] a liquid crystal display, [the control] controlled by the control unit [controlling the display unit], wherein

a) the display unit is divided into symbol fields (2, 3, 4, 5, 6) [which are] arranged one next to the other in a row, the control unit [only ever displaying] controlling said display unit to display one pictogram in each symbol field simultaneously,

[b)] the control unit [always] displays in a specific symbol field (2) each new pictogram which is to be displayed in the symbol fields (2, 3, 4, 5, 6) [which are arranged one next to the other in a row,] and displaces [by one symbol field] the pictograms which have already been displayed by one symbol field, without changing their order, the device further comprising

[c)] a control element (13) [with which] for controlling display of a coherent section of the pictograms which [are arranged

one next to the other in a row] are displayable in the symbol fields of the display unit if [more] a number of pictograms [are] to be displayed simultaneously [than] exceeds a number of symbol fields [which are present] on the display unit.

3. (Twice amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising

a) a timer [which the] started by the control unit [starts] when an instruction to delete a pictogram [arrives] is received,

[b)] wherein, the control unit displays a pictogram which is to be deleted, for a retention time[, dimensioned] determined by the timer[,] in that symbol field (2) [which is] provided for each pictogram which is to be newly displayed, and

[c)] after the retention time has expired, the control unit removes the pictogram which is to be deleted [from the row of pictograms which is to be displayed].

4. (Twice amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the control element (13) is at least one of a rotary actuator, a slide, a momentary-contact switch, or a combination thereof.

5. (Twice amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an audible signal transmitter [which is] controlled by the control unit [and outputs] for

outputting an audible signal if a new pictogram is displayed or a pictogram is to be deleted from the display unit.

6. (Twice amended) A method for displaying pictograms with a device [which is] arranged in a vehicle, the device comprising a control unit and a display unit, in particular [an LC] a liquid crystal display, controlled by the control unit [controlling the display unit], the method comprising the steps of

a) displaying the pictograms in symbol fields (2, 3, 4, 5, 6) of the display unit, the symbol fields (2, 3, 4, 5, 6) being arranged one next to the other to form a row of symbol fields,

b) displaying each pictogram which is to be newly displayed in a [quite] specific symbol field (2) of the row of symbol fields until a pictogram with a more recent time priority is to be displayed,

c) displacing all the pictograms which have already been displayed in the row of symbol fields by one symbol field when a new pictogram is displayed,

d) expanding the row of symbol fields (2, 3, 4, 5, 6) [which is] visible on the display unit at [the] at least one of start [and/or] and end of said row in virtual fashion by invisible symbol fields (7, 8, 9, 10), [in order to displace] for displacing pictograms onto these invisible symbol fields (7, 8, 9, 10) if [more] a number of pictograms [are] to be displayed [than] exceeds a number of symbol

fields (2, 3, 4, 5, 6) [which are] visible on the display unit [are present simultaneously],

[e)] wherein a section of pictograms [which are] arranged [one next to the other in a row] in the visible symbol fields can be displayed on the display unit by [means of] a control element (13) [from the row of symbol fields], wherein said control element (13) is able to displace [in that] the row of symbol fields [is, for a viewer, apparently is displaced using the control element (13)].

7. (Twice amended) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein a pictogram [which is] to be deleted is removed from its location in the row of symbol fields thereyby creating a gap in the row of symbol fields and is displayed in [that] a symbol field (2) which is provided for each pictogram [which is] to be newly displayed, [all those] said pictograms [which are] located next to [this] said symbol field (2) [being] are displaced by one symbol field until the gap in [the] said row of symbol fields [which is] produced by the removal of the pictogram which is to be deleted is closed again.

8. (Twice amended) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the viewing of a pictogram [which is] to be deleted can be acknowledged by activating the control element (13) [, in response to which] causing the pictogram [which is] to be deleted [is] to be immediately removed from the row of symbol fields.

9. (Twice amended) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the control unit reverses a preceding displacement of the row of symbol fields, [in that] whereby the pictograms [which were] last displayed are displayed on the symbol fields (2, 3, 4, 5, 6) which are visible in the display unit, together with that pictogram whose message has been canceled, if, at the time when a message was canceled, the pictograms of the latest messages were not represented in visible symbol fields in the active area of the display unit[,] because the control element (13) had been activated.

10. (Twice amended) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein a pictogram which is to be deleted [and which] is displayed in [that] the symbol field (2) which is provided in the row of symbol fields for displaying each pictogram [which is] to be newly displayed is marked so as to be distinguishable from [a way of representing] the other pictograms.

11. (Twice amended) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the marking of a pictogram [which is] to be deleted comprises [an inverted] inverting [way of representation of its] a filling-in color and/or background color thereof.

12. (Twice amended) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the marking of a pictogram [which is] to be deleted comprises at least one of outlining the symbol field or putting a bar through the pictogram.

13. (Twice amended) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the control unit closes the gap in the row of symbol fields [which has been] produced as a result of the deletion of a pictogram by allowing all the pictograms having an older time priority to move on by one symbol field [with an older time priority].

14. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the control unit reverses a preceding displacement of the row of symbol fields, [in that] whereby the pictograms [which were] last displayed are displayed on the symbol fields (2, 3, 4, 5, 6) which are visible in the display unit, together with that pictogram whose message has been canceled, if, at the time when a message was canceled, the pictograms of the latest messages were not represented in visible symbol fields in the active area of the display unit, because the control element (13) had been activated.